

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 577

To honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its role as a protector of the world's refugees, to celebrate UNHCR's 50th anniversary, and to praise the High Commissioner Sadako Ogata for her work with UNHCR for the past ten years.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

To honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its role as a protector of the world's refugees, to celebrate UNHCR's 50th anniversary, and to praise the High Commissioner Sadako Ogata for her work with UNHCR for the past ten years.

Whereas since the founding of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in December 1950, it has become one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies with 244 offices in 118 countries and helps nearly 23,000,000 people in more than 140 countries;

Whereas on December 14, 2000, UNHCR marks a half-century of helping millions of the world's most vulnerable and courageous people;

Whereas UNHCR has fulfilled the mandate in Article 22 of the United Nations Charter by assisting states to provide protection and assistance to refugees around the world and seeking durable solutions to their problems;

Whereas UNHCR has worked to ensure respect of refugees basic human rights and adherence to the principle of nonrefoulement, which prohibits the expulsion and return of refugees to countries or territories where their lives or freedom would be threatened;

Whereas the United States and its citizens have long welcomed refugees to our shores;

Whereas, although UNHCR's responsibilities under its original mandate do not include internally displaced persons, it plays a critical role in assisting and protecting internally displaced populations in many situations, particularly where refugees and internally displaced persons are intertwined;

Whereas the heart of UNHCR's mandate is protection, and UNHCR must continue to emphasize protection in choosing durable solutions for refugees, including voluntary return, local integration in countries of first asylum, and resettlement;

Whereas refugee women and children face special protection and assistance needs and UNHCR must continue to emphasize their needs in its policy and program efforts;

Whereas, in collaboration with other international agencies and nongovernmental organizations, UNHCR has shaped policies on which the international community can agree to move forward on peacefully resolving refugee situations;

Whereas under the leadership of High Commissioner Sadako Ogata and her predecessors, UNHCR has made invaluable contributions for humanity by helping to promote peace and respect for human rights for all uprooted peoples; and

Whereas UNHCR has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its service to humanity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States House of
2 Representatives—

3 (1) recognizes and honors the United Nations
4 High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the
5 occasion of its 50th anniversary for its contributions
6 on behalf of the world's refugees;

7 (2) expresses its support for the continued ef-
8 forts of UNHCR;

9 (3) affirms its support for international protec-
10 tion for the victims of persecution and human rights
11 abuse and durable solutions for refugees; and

12 (4) calls on the international community to
13 work together with UNHCR in efforts to ensure that
14 host countries uphold humanitarian and human
15 rights principles for refugees, to lessen the impact of
16 refugees on host countries, and to promote the safe
17 voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement of refugees.
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